

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 33 and amend the claims as follows:

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence:

wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence comprises an amino acid sequence at least 75% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 [[or]], and wherein the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises an amino acid sequence at least 75% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID:3, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof binds to at least one of low density lipoproteins (LDL) and oxidized LDL (oxLDL).

28. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is capable of binding at least one of LDL cholesterol and oxidized LDL cholesterol (oxLDL cholesterol).

29. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said low density lipoproteins (LDL) or said oxidized LDL (oxLDL) occurring in human and other animal bodies have complementary carbohydrate structures.

30. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a functional fragment of said antibody.

31. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said functional fragment is selected from the group consisting of [[V_L, V_H]] F_V, [[F_C]] Fab, Fab' and F(ab')₂.

32. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof includes an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the light chain (V_L) [[is]] at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:1, or an amino acid sequence of a variable region of the heavy chain (V_H) at least

80% identical to SEQ ID NO:3, or is at least 80% identical to both of said amino acid sequences of said variable regions of said light chain (V_L) and said heavy chain (V_H).

33. (Cancel)

34. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein said functional fragment contains an amino acid fragment of the light chain (V_L) variable region or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

35. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 31, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of said functional fragment contains an amino acid sequence fragment ~~that is~~ at least 80% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3.

36. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof is at least 85% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

39. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment thereof contains a sequence at least 90% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

40. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is a monoclonal antibody.

41. (Previously Presented) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said antibody or functional fragment thereof is produced by a hybridoma.

42. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof comprising a light chain (V_L) variable region sequence and a heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence, wherein the light chain (V_L) or heavy chain variable region sequences comprise an amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:3, respectively.

43. (Currently Amended) A purified antibody or functional fragment thereof, wherein the light chain (V_L) variable region sequence or the heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence comprises ~~comprising~~ a complementary-determining region (CDR), selected from [Ser-Gly-Asp-Lys-Leu-Gly-Asp-Lys-Tyr-Ala-Cys (CDR1), amino acids 23-33 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Gln-Asp-Ser-Lys-Arg-Pro-Ser (CDR2) amino acids 49-55 of SEQ ID NO:1, or Gln-Ala-Trp-Asp-Ser-Ser-Ile-Val-Val (CDR3) amino acids 88-96 of SEQ ID NO:1], or [Ser-Tyr-Ala-Met-His (CDR1) amino acids 31-35 of SEQ ID NO:3, or Val-Ile-Ser-Tyr-Asp-Gly-Ser-Asn-Lys-Tyr-Tyr-Ala-Asp-Ser-Val-Lys-Gly (CDR2) amino acids 50-66 of SEQ ID NO:3, or Asp-Arg-Leu-Ala-Val-Ala-Gly-Lys-Thr-Phe-Asp-Tyr (CDR3) amino acids 99-110 of SEQ ID NO:3.].

44.-47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

49. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.

50. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said light chain (V_L) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:1.

51. (Currently Amended) The purified antibody or functional fragment thereof according to Claim 27, wherein said heavy chain (V_H) variable region sequence of the antibody or functional fragment contains a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:3.